

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1-10. (cancelled)

11. (previously presented) An ultrasonic welder comprising:

an ultrasonically agitated welding tip having a welding surface which extends in a plane;

a tip guide juxtaposed with the welding tip and having a guide surface extending perpendicular to the welding surface;

an anvil atop of the tip guide and having an anvil surface extending parallel to the welding surface;

a gathering block having a gathering surface extending parallel to the guide surface; and

a controller actuating the gathering block to move from an unloading position to a predetermined loading position, wherein the gathering surface is spaced apart from the guide surface at a predetermined distance to form a workpiece nest defined between the anvil, welding, gathering and guide surfaces, and the controller actuates the gathering block to move in a time-controlled manner away from the working space back to the unloading position after welding has been completed.

12. (withdrawn) The ultrasonic welder defined in claim 11 wherein the anvil is controllably movable toward the welding tip to exert a preset pressure.

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